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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Talbot
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Compton
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northside of Howell Point Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Trappe		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First	
STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Talbot	CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Charles F.C. Arensberg	
STREET AND NUMBER: Compton	
CITY OR TOWN: Trappe	STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Talbot County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Easton	STATE: Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: Maryland

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland	COUNTY: Talbot
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7 DESCRIPTION						
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
<p>DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</p> <p>Compten is located on Grubbin Neck, 2 miles southwest of the town of Trappe, overlooking LaTrappe Creek. Approach to the house is gained on a narrow lane which, after it leads through the woods, makes an abrupt left into an allee of maples and cedars.</p> <p>It is a relatively simple, two part brick dwelling, laid in Flemish bond, which is the result of two major building periods and subsequent minor alterations. The main part sits above a basement which has segmental arches, above the windows and a quarter-round molded water table. Its southwest facade is five bays long with a three brick belt course between floors. The gables have the remains of a two-brick beltcourse slightly lower than that on the facade. Three dormers light the third floor rooms on both sides of the A roof. Within both gables is a single chimney servicing two fireplaces each.* The one and one-half story kitchen-dining room wing is built close to the ground and is set back from the main facade by about twelve feet. Its northeast wall is even with the back wall of the catslide extension of the main house. The fenestration is irregular, and there are two chimneys assymetrically placed. The brick color and joints are reminescent of the 1790 wing of Myrtle Grove, Talbot County, with considerably more refinement than the main block.</p> <p>The interior is divided into four rooms, two halls and a bath. The woodwork throughout is the same, with country Federal mantels, chair rail, cabinets adjoining the fireplace in the Dining room and Library, and a stair which extends to the attic. The doors into the two small rooms, now used as baths are two-panel doors hung on wrought H hinges, whereas the other doors are six-panel and are hung on cast butt hinges.</p> <p>These two doors, along with a single original window in the second floor bath, the huge arches in the celler, the lower belt course on the gable walls and the segmental arches in the basement are traces of the original house. Judging from the similarity between these features and those of Hampden, across the creek, as well as the 1798 tax assessment, it can be fairly well conjectured that the original house was a one and one-half story 'L' plan building, built around the second quarter of the eighteenth century.</p> <p>After 1798, Samuel Stevens, the Governor, added the second story and garrett and the kitchen-dining wing. At this period, he changed the floor plan and renewed all of the woodwork with the exception of the two aforementioned</p>						
<p>* On the northeast side, overlooking the allee, is a two-story porch across four of the five bay facade, the other bay being a small catslide extension.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Compton

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

doors.

In the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the livingroom windows and the southwest windows of the library were lengthened and probably re-trimmed inside. Later, however, the trim was replaced by copies of the trim on the two un-lengthened windows. Other alterations include moving the kitchen door to the gable and changing the southwest window to the place of the original door. The southwest hall door may have been a lengthening of a former window.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Compton is important because it has elements of early eighteenth century vernacular architecture which have been largely incorporated in the early nineteenth century additions. As such it contributes greatly to the knowledge of early Maryland domestic buildings. The type house it became during Samuel Stevens ownership indicates something of the man who was to be one of Maryland's Governors. Also of importance is the assistance of a two-story brick milkhouse, with the first story standing below a moat-like retaining wall, and the allee of large old maple trees on the northside of the dwelling.

Compton was the home of Samuel Stevens (1778-1860) eighteenth Governor of Maryland. He intermittantly represented Talbot County in the House of Delegates from 1807 to 1820. On December 9, 1822, he was elected to the first of three terms as Governor. Stevens' tenure is remembered for the enfranchisement of the Jews, the abolition of a religious test for Maryland office holders, the extension of the civil liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to State law, and the creation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. During Lafayette's visit to the United States (1824) Governor Stevens rode from Compton to meet him wearing 'swallow-tailed blue jeans (sic), home-spun coat, with brass buttons.'<sup>1</sup>

After Stevens last term in Annapolis he returned to Compton which he had inherited from his father in 1794. He gave the building its present configuration adding the one and one-half story east wing and raising the initial stage of the house to two stories.

<sup>1</sup> Frank White, The Governors of Maryland 1777-1970, Annapolis, 1970, 84.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arensberg, Charles F.C. and James M. Arensberg. "Compton, Talbot County." Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. 48. (September 1953), 215-226.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Talbot County, Bullenbrook Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

White, Frank. The Governors of Maryland 1777-1970. Annapolis: Hall of Records, 1970.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne and Nancy Miller		
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE May 1973	
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland	CODE 24

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

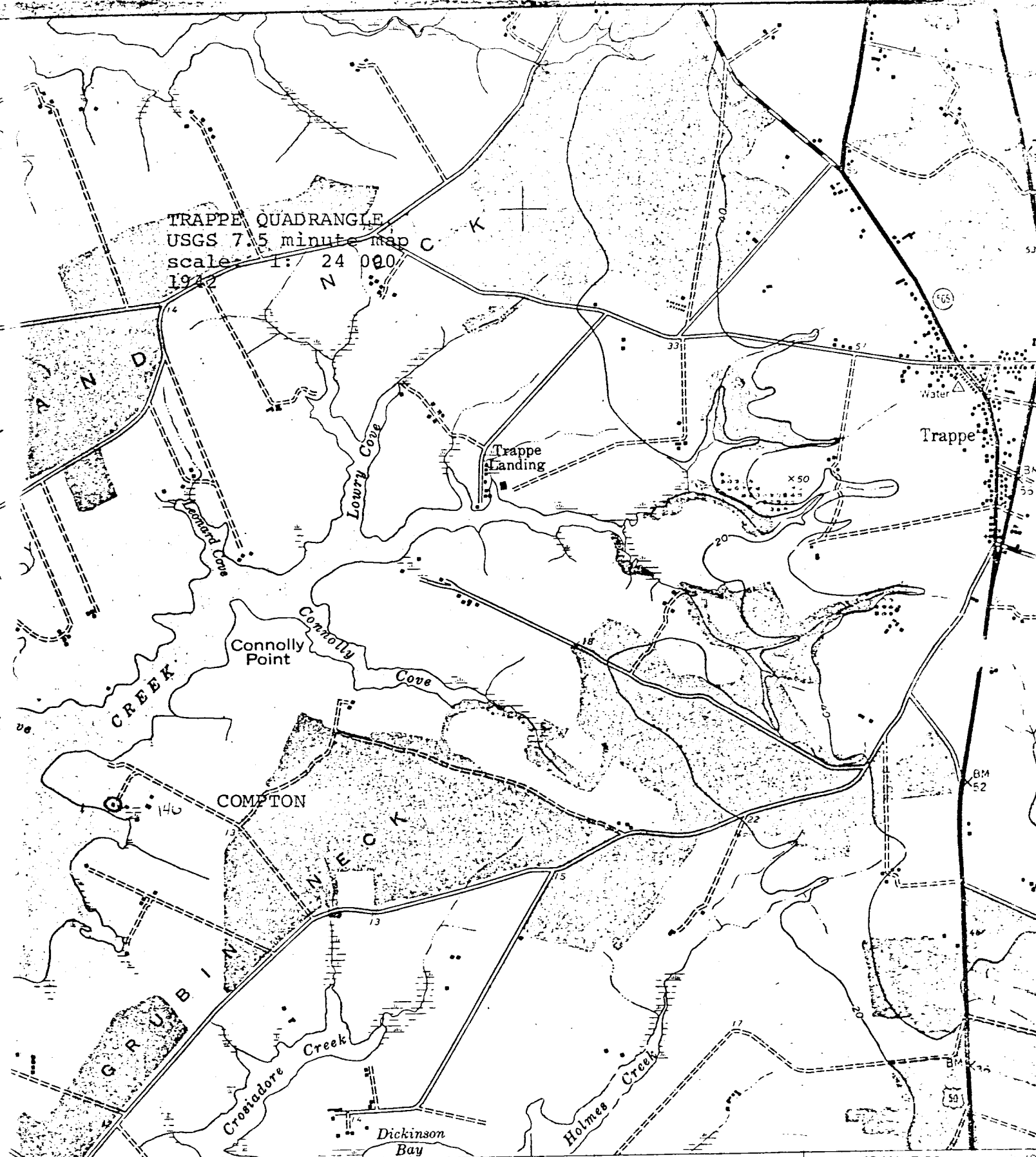
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

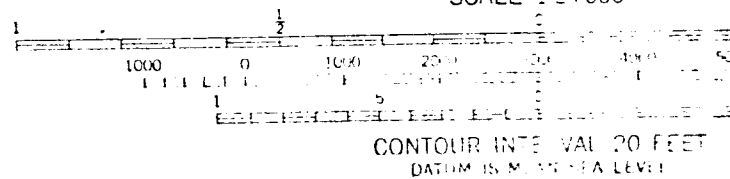
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

TRAPPE QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale 1: 24 000  
1942



ological Survey

by photogrammetric methods  
erial photographs taken 1942  
merican datum





.12 x 1.82

75% 146

Compton

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S.W. facade

M. Bourne

4/73





Dairy, Compton

T-146



West Elev.

M. Bourn

4/63



T-146

Compton

Southwest Facade

Michael O. Bourne

4/1973

Neg-MHT